

*K. Hungary. Maria Theresa
[Treasurer-II]*

Seasonable Reflections

On the late

CONVENTION,

CONCLUDED

The 3d of *May* last, between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Turin*, for Partitioning between them the Territories belonging to the Republic of *Genoa* ; especially shewing the injurious Consequence to the *British* Trade, should *Savona* and *Final* be annexed, in Virtue of any future General Peace, to the Dominions of the House of *Savoy*.

IN A

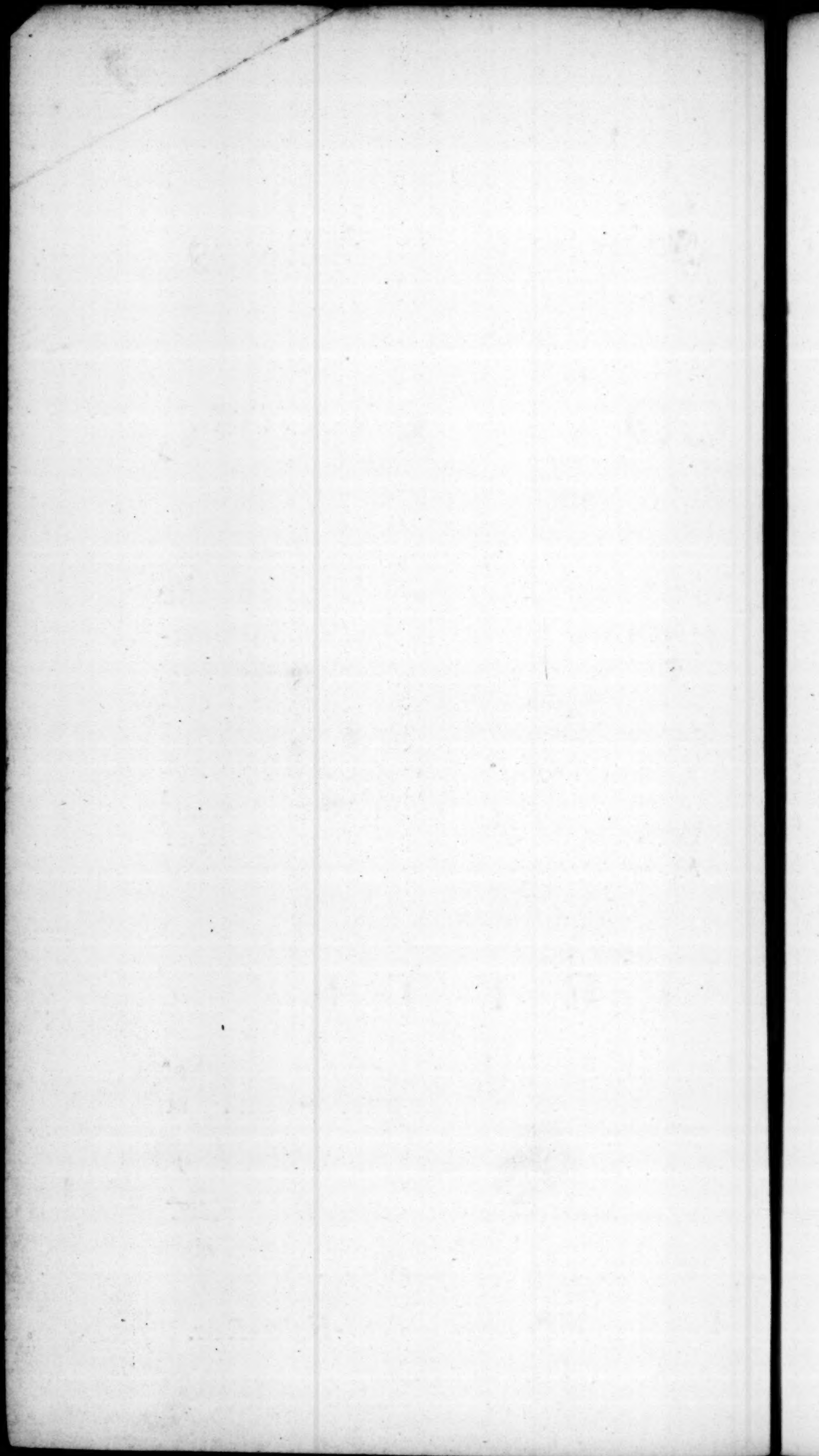
LETTER

From an *English* MERCHANT residing at *Leghorn*, to his CORRESPONDENT at *London*.

L O N D O N :

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Seasonable Reflections.

Venice, May 20, 1747,

S I R,

THE Letter you honoured me with of the 10th of last Month was transmitted to me by my House at *Leghorn*, to this City, where I have been for near a Month to solicit some Affairs I have depending at *Naples*, which I now have Hopes of terminating to my Satisfaction, by means of a powerful Interest procured for me here, at the Court of his *Sicilian* Majesty.

You will have been advised by my House, that your Bills have been duely honoured ; and you may reckon, that your Orders shall be as punctually executed, and your Interest, on all Occasions, as assiduously and affectionately

looked after in my Absence as if I had been personally at *Leghorn*. Such have been my Orders, and I dare assure you they will be carefully observed while I am away, which I think cannot be of long Duration.

But, as in this Vacation from Business, I cannot employ my Leisure more agreeably to myself, than in amusing you with what occurs in this great Mart of Politics. You will give me Leave to acquaint you with a Piece of News, of a pretty extraordinary Nature, lately propagated and believed here ; and indulge me in the Repetition of such Reflections as occurred to me on maturely considering the same.

The Conquest of *Genoa*, and all its Territories, is resolved upon, and a Convention for partitioning the same between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Turin* has been signed the 3d Instant at *Turin*. I may venture assuring you of the Certainty of this Intelligence, having had it from such of this Government as are best informed ; and I need not tell you,
who

who are no Stranger to the refined Politics of this Republic, that no Secrets are impenetrable to the Statesmen here. I think I shall soon be enabled to send you an exact Copy of the aforesaid Compact, being promised one by a Person of great Intelligence ; but in the mean while you may reckon on the Reality of the following Abstract from it.

By this Convention, the King of *Sardinia* obliges himself to furnish a *Fifth* of the Troops and Artillery necessary for carrying the Project of reducing the Town of *Genoa* into Execution. In Consideration of which, that Prince is to have, as his Proportion of the Conquest, *Savona*, and all the western *Riviera* as far as *Vintimiglia*, the utmost Limits of the *Genoese* Territories on that Side. He is to have besides, a *Fifth* of whatever shall be hereafter imposed on the *Genoese*, by way of Contribution, or otherwise. And the Discussion of his Pretensions to what had been raised upon them the last Year by the Marquis *Botta*, shall be postponed to another Time.

Time. The Town of *Genoa*, its Artillery, and all the Eastern *Riviera*, fall to the Share of the Empress Queen, who obliges herself to procure the Guaranty of *Great-Britain* to this Treaty of Partition.

It is not as yet possible to know with Certainty how the other *Italian* Powers will relish this Convention, tho' it may be presumed, that the clear-sighted jealous Statesmen here will not see with Indifference the further Aggrandizement of the two contracting Powers in *Italy*, by the intire Subversion of so antient a Republic as that of *Genoa*. As for the Success of the Enterprize, it seems at least to be dubious, from the small Progress made hitherto by the Besiegers, and from the constant Reinforcements of *French* and *Spanish* Troops, and Supplies of Provisions, and other Necessaries, which daily arrive to the Besieged, notwithstanding the Vigilance of the Commanders of our Ships of War, who cannot possibly prevent, in so fine a Season as the present, the Navigation
of

of such small Craft as are made use of on this Occasion. If we may believe common Fame, the Progress of the Besiegers to this Time, has consisted solely in burning Palaces and Villages ; in committing other Cruelties, and Devastations where-ever their Power has reached, which induces the *Genoese* to believe that the *Austrians* have already mediated a sudden Retreat from before their Capital.

However that be, I make no doubt but our Court will attentively reflect on the Importance of the Guaranty expected from our Country, in Virtue of the aforesaid partitioning Convention lately made at *Turin*. For tho' our Ministry should be of Opinion, that it might be necessary, on one Hand, to disable the *Genoese*, by new heavy Contributions, and to oblige them to a Rupture with their present Defenders, the *French* and *Spaniards* ; yet, on the other, our Statesmen cannot but see that no Event could more essentially affect the *English* Trade to the *Mediterranean* than

than the aforefaid projected Partition of the Territories of *Genoa*, even fupposing our Allies fhould be able to maintain themfelves in the Poffeffion of them: And let me add, that the Maintenance of fuch Poffeffion muft depend folely on an utter Difability on the Part of the Prince of the Houfe of *Bourbon*, whole Intereft it muft be eternally to impede the like Alteration in *Italy*.

For this Reason, it would feem that the Court of *Vienna* had no other View in agreeing to the aforefaid Convention, than the inducing that of *Turin* to aid towards humbling the *Genoeſe*, the compelling them to pay a large Contribution, and at the ſame time, the detaching them from the Interests of *France* and *Spain*. Conqueſts and Partitions could have had no Share in the Deſigns of the *Auſtrian* Miniſtry in this Inſtance, becauſe they muſt have foreſeen the Impracticability of preſerving a Poffeffion quietly, which muſt neceſſarily be the Means of fo-

menting

menting Jealousies, and keeping up a constant Flame in that Part of *Europe*. }

But as either Supposition may be made, tho' not equally well founded, or probable, I shall venture making a few Observations on the Injury to our *English* Commerce, which must naturally result from such a Partition as has been projected by the Convention lately concluded at *Turin*, should it ever take place: Yet let me premise, that these Observations are introductory only to such as I think it my Duty to make on the late Conquest and Detention of *Savona* and *Final* by his *Sardinian* Majesty. This may seem an Object of an inferior Consideration; but which, in my Opinion, is no less interesting and important, as relative to our *Trade*. Wherefore, I shall examine it the more minutely that I apprehend the Subject is not so generally understood and heeded to by our Countrymen as their commercial Interest seems to require.

Tho' it be possible, and barely so, that the Possession of *Genoa*, and its Eastern *Riviera*,

by the House of *Austria*, might not involve *England* hereafter in foreign Wars ; tho' such Increase of Territory and Power in that House might not hereafter incline it to incroach upon some of its *Italian* Neighbours, whom it would be the Interest and Inclination of *Englishmen* to support : I say, tho' nothing of all this were ever to happen, yet it is certain, first, that our Trade to *Genoa* would inevitably, and immediately dwindle to nothing, from the Inability of its Inhabitants to deal with us after they should be stripped of all their *Specie*, which must be the certain Consequence of the Conquest by a Nation so greedy and necessitous as the *Austrians* are known to be. And, secondly, that a Commerce so lost could never be retrieved in a Country subject to *Austrians*, who are known, experimentally, to drain all Countries under their Subjection. How can it be otherwise, considering how very little their Troops expend abroad, and what Treasure they carry back with them to their own homes ; and considering that by

ruinous

ruinous and repeated heavy Imposts and Taxes they get into their Hands all the coined Bullion of their *Italian* Subjects, which constantly finds its way to *Vienna*?

It is evident then, that a Country stript of its circulating Specie, must be impoverished, and that a Diminution of the Consumption of its Inhabitants, must be the necessary Consequence of their Poverty. As their Indigence increases, their Consumption decreases proportionably. And you know perfectly well, who had resided so long in this Country, that this Truth has been experienced in *Italy* where-ever the *Austrians* have had Dominion since the Peace of *Utrecht*.

The Case was quite otherwise while the *Spaniards* bore Sway here. The *Italians* grew rich, and particularly while *Lewis XIV.* supported the Interest of his Grandchild, *Philip V.* from 1701 to 1706. In that short Interval alone, the *French* brought above

Eight Millions Sterling into *Italy* in weighty *Louisdors*, which had caused such a Circulation as was infinitely useful to the trading Nation of *Europe*, and to ours more than any. But in less than a dozen Years after the Peace of *Utrecht*, there was neither the old *French* Gold Coin to be seen in *Italy*, nor any of those old *Spanish* Pistoles that had been mostly the current Cash of that Country for above two Centuries before. All was swept away to *Germany* by various Methods, from whence it never has, nor can return.

Thus did our Trade to *Italy* suffer, when it was reasonable to hope that it might have flourished in time of Peace: But naturally it must have decreased by the general Drain that was of the circulating Cash of that Country, as aforesaid, or by the Poverty of the People, occasioned by that Drain, which necessarily produced a Decrease of their Consumption of our Manufactures.

You

You cannot forget how the Scarcity of circulating Cash, brought thus upon the *Italians*, had slacken'd the Sale of our Manufactures, and rendered our Trade far less advantageous, and more difficult than usual. Bankruptcies became frequent ; nor could we wonder at it, since it became impracticable for those we dealt with to sell for Money, as there was none, so as to answer their Credit ; or if they did sell at time, it must have been to such, as for want of Money, were obliged to trust to the Poor and Indigent.

And thus it must ever happen where-ever *Austrians* hold the Reins of Government, for the Reasons assigned before. Taxes, however rigorously levied, and unproportionably laid, can never ruin a Country as long as the Sovereign distributes with one Hand what he receives with the other. But the Court of *Vienna* have never had Acquaintance with this so reasonable and salutary a Maxim, especially in regard to her *Italian* Dominions, from whence the
Austrians

Austrians have constantly drawn, without making any the least Return of Treasure.

How perceptibly less has our Trade to *Naples* and *Sicily* suffered since a *Spanish* Prince has wore the Crowns of the *Sicilies*. It may justly be said, that since the Expulsion of the *Austrians*, our Commerce to those Countries have increased above treble what it was before. And why, but because the Prince not only lays out among his Subjects what he raises upon them, but they have an additional Wealth of Bullion constantly flowing in upon them from *Spain*?

But we are not to expect the like Increase of our Trade to *Genoa*, should that Town come under the Dominion of the *Austrians*. We must, on the contrary, look for its Declension, or rather for its utter Destruction. Wherefore I should hope, that no true *Englishman* would wish the *Genoese* brought so low as they are threaten'd to be reduced to: Nor can I doubt but that the true Interest of Old
England

England, the Necessity of preserving the Balance of *Italy*, and the Equity and Justice of our Court, will so far weigh with our Ministry, as to advise against Acceding to, or Guarantying the Convention of *Turin*.

For how deeply soever our Trade might be wounded by *Genoa's* falling to the Lot of the Empress Queen, the Wound would be much deeper should that Part of the Convention come to be executed, which stipulates that the Western Part of the Dominions of the Republic shall be assigned to the King of *Sardinia*. And I am even persuaded, that independent of the Execution or Success of that Convention, and of such Conjunctions or Circumstances as may induce, or oblige the Court of *Vienna* to make a further Cession of her Conquests to his *Sardinian* Majesty, who is strongly suspected of having a View to the Monarchy of *Italy* : I am persuaded, I say, that independent of any such Consideration, the Addition of *Savona* and *Final* to
that

that Prince's Dominions, would soon have the same ill Effects, which might be apprehended from the Conquest or Partition, which gave Rise to the late Convention between the two Courts.

But to wave any further Discussion of that Convention, which probably is not of so easy Execution as might have been imagined, I shall confine my Observations to the single Point of the Possibility of having the Possession of *Savona* and *Final* secured to the House of *Savoy* by a general Treaty of Peace. And tho' I cannot suppose, from the known Sagacity of our Statesmen, that they stand in need of any new Lights on this Subject, yet cannot I gain on myself to be silent, while my Apprehensions are so strong, that some unguarded Step may be taken that might hereafter affect the Commerce of our Country, which has been occasionally, but too much neglected since you and I have been in Trade. And I the rather address my Reflections to
you,

you, who are perfectly skill'd in the *Italian* Trade, that you may impart them to some of your Acquaintance in the Ministry, should you think them as solid, and well founded, as I flatter myself they are.

I take it for granted, that the Court of *Turin*, whenever there shall be a general Peace treated of, will put every Engine in Motion, every Art in Practice that can tend to the securing, by the Treaty, the Possession of *Savona* and *Final* to his *Sardinian* Majesty. I shall, therefore, confine my Observations, first, to this Consideration, and next, to examining the Probability of the Court of *Turin's* succeeding in these her extensive Views.

The Possession of the Town of *Savona*, which necessarily includes likewise Possession of the Bay of *Vado*, being of so great Consequence to the King of *Sardinia*, there is no doubting that his Ministers will use their

utmost Endeavours that he should keep it. But should they succeed, 'tis as little to be doubted, that the Trade of *Genoa* would thereby be intirely ruined. Nor is it less to be questioned but that our Trade thither must necessarily cease in a very little Time, without Hopes of being compensated by any we might hereafter have with *Savona*, *Vado*, or *Final*.

In order to be convinced of the Truth of these two Propositions, one need only consider the Nature of our present Trade to *Genoa*, the Impossibility of continuing it, should the Republic be crushed, and what we might hope for or dread, should the Trade of *Genoa* be transfer'd to *Savona*, as it infallibly would, should this Town remain in the Possession of the House of *Savoy*.

Need you, Sir, who are so well acquainted with the Trade of this Part of the World, be told that ours to *Genoa* consists of various Branches
equally

equally lucrative and advantageous? You know that this Mart takes off no small Share of all the Products of our Island, both natural and artificial. Here we vend tann'd Leather, Led, Tin, dry'd Fish, Pilchard, Herrings, Salmon, Corn, Hard-ware, Toys, Hats, and all, or most, of the other Articles of our favourite and staple Manufacture, the *Woollen*. This Manufacture, as it is the Source of our Wealth, so ought it to be the principal Object of our Attention; and it is for this Reason chiefly that I dread the Possession of *Savona* and *Vado* in the House of *Savoy*, apprehending that, in that Case, it must necessarily suffer, as I shall immediately endeavour to shew you.

Judge you of the Consumption of such a Multitude, as 150,000 Souls, which we compute to have been the Number of the Inhabitants of the Town of *Genoa*. What was not thus consumed of our Imports thither, was distributed to the Territories of the Republic,

public, *East* and *West*, to *Lombardy*, to *Cor-*
sica and *Sardinia*. Now, except a few *Vel-*
vets, and some Blocks of *Marble*, what Re-
 turns had we from *Genoa* but *Bills of Ex-*
change, which put the Balance of Trade con-
 siderably on our Side ? You, Sir, who resided
 at *Genoa*, and still trade thither, are sensible
 of the Truth of this Assertion ; nor are you
 less sensible, that that Trade is most advanta-
 geous where the Returns are made in Bullion,
 or Bills of Exchange.

Another Branch of Trade, no less, if not
 more lucrative, which we carried on with
 the *Genoese*, was the *Freight* of our Shipping
 to and from *Genoa* to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Hol-*
land, *Hamburgh*, *Sicily* ; and, in a Word,
 to where-ever the Commerce of the *Genoese*
 reach'd. Did that industrious People stand
 in need of Corn, Rice, Wine, Oil, or any
 other of the Products of the *Levant*, of *Sicily*,
 the Coast of *Naples*, *Barbary*, or of the
Adriatic Coast ; or want to transport these
 Commodities to *Spain*, or the North of the
 Streights

Streights of *Gibraltar*, as they constantly did ; Did that mercantile People, I say, want to send abroad, or bring home, or trade, betwixt different foreign Nations, it was always on *English* Bottoms. By this Means an infinite Tonnage was employed, a new Nursery was established for Seamen, and a very great Treasure was annually returned to our Mother Country, which was still the more advantageous to her, that the Shipping thus usefully employed abroad, were mostly, if not wholly, victualled at home, or from home.

The principal Springs of our Trade with the *Genoese*, may be deem'd, first, the vast Number of the Inhabitants of their Capital, and its Territories ; secondly, their Industry, which puts them on various Manufactures proper and necessary for the Consumption of other Nations, which partly furnishes Employment for our Shipping ; thirdly, the Credit, Character, Correspondence and Wealth, in coined Bullion, of their Traders, who encourage Trade, and are cherished by all who traffick

traffick with them, as they are willing and able to make such Advances as Foreigners may have Occasion for, at a very moderate Discount. And this Facility in Trade, which you know to be so necessary, has been frequently and beneficially experienced by our Fellow-Subjects of *Britain* and *Ireland*.

You will admit then, Sir, that these several Springs which fed our Commerce with the *Genoese*, must necessarily dry up, should their present Trade be removed to another Town. Should *Savona* become the Mart, *Genoa* ceases to be one. To prove this Proposition, one need few Examples. That of *Antwerp* in the North, and of *Pisa* in this Part of the World, are sufficient; tho' one would think there were no need of Instances where Reason so evidently pointed out the Truth of the Assertion. It is easily perceivable that such a sterile Country as the *Genoese* inhabit, which produces nothing, or very little, must necessarily subsist by Commerce, there being no other way left for its Inhabitants

Inhabitants to come at, not only the Superfluities, but even the Necessaries of Life. Take then their Commerce from a People so situated, and you reduce them to the Necessity of seeking the Conveniences of Life where they are more easily and safely acquired.

In Proportion to the Increase of the Trade of *Savona*, that of *Genoa* must necessarily decrease ; and in Proportion to such a Decay of Commerce, the Inhabitants will remove. It would argue a Weakness, or rather a Stupidity, not to foresee such a Decay of the Trade of *Genoa*, when that of *Savona* shall be cherished and encouraged by a powerful Prince, whose Interest and Ambition must prompt him to favour such a darling Rival at the Expence of a neighbouring City which had always been an Eye-fore to his Family.

Such, without doubt, would be the Fate of *Genoa*, should the Possession of *Savona* and *Vado* be secured to the House of *Savoy*. The Facility of establishing a flourishing Trade at
Savona

Savona at the Expence of *Genoa*, would soon reduce this latter to the wretched Condition of those Towns mentioned before, which appear now only as the Skeletons of what they were. As the Wants of the *Genoese* would necessarily become proportioned to the Decay of their Trade, they would naturally follow their Commerce to seek for the Conveniences of Life.

Thus, by degrees, would the Manufacturers of *Genoa*, who now partly occasion the Consumption and chiefly contribute to its Opulence, remove and establish themselves at *Savona*, and in *Piedmont*. And by a very natural Consequence of the Removal of the Manufacturers and Artizans, the Adventurers would follow. In such a Desertion of the Industrious and most useful Part of the Inhabitants, 'tis easily perceived that *Genoa* must soon be reduced to the Shadow only of what it is at present.

Hence then it follows, that the Imports of our Products to *Genoa* would diminish greatly,

greatly, if not totally cease, should its Trade be transfer'd to *Savona*, it being true, that the Consumption would diminish in Proportion to the Desertion of its Inhabitants who would not fail taking their Wealth along with them to their new Place of Residence. By the same Reason we should be deprived of the Benefit arising from the Affreightment of our Shipping ; it being certain, that as Commerce ceased at *Genoa*, so must our Navigation, of Necessity. Thus, at once, shall we loose all the lucrative Branches of our gainful Trade with a People, that had always given us the Preference in commercial Matters, should the Court of *Turin* succeed in its present Views.

But it may be urged, and probably will, by such as don't examine these Matters with great Circumspection, that we shall have the same Facility and Advantages of Trade at *Savona* hereafter, should it become the Mart, as we have enjoyed heretofore at *Genoa*. Our Products, it will be said, may be consumed at *Savona* and *Vado*, as well as at *Genoa* ; and

what shall hinder, but that our Shipping may be employed in the former Ports, as well as they were in the latter ? In short, we may be told, that we cannot fail of meeting the same Welcome, the same Facility in all Respects, at *Savona* as we experienced at *Genoa*.

Such may be the Language of the Inattentive to the Nature of Commerce and Industry ; but I am sure, Sir, you will see Things in quite another Light ; you will readily distinguish between a settled commercial Intercourse with an opulent People, versed in Trade, and that with a new Colony mostly taken up with forming Plans of Schemes and Regulations. Our Trade to *Genoa* has been as early as our Knowledge of Commerce. It is a Branch that has been stated and settled, and found to be lucrative and beneficial. But it will require Ages to bring our Trade to *Savona* to the same Consistency. Should a wise trading Nation, such as ours, try such Experiments, especially when their general Trade is on the Decline ?

But supposing the Trade of *Savona* and *Vado* fixt and established, could we flatter ourselves that the Consumption of our Products
and

and Manufactures would be as considerable there as at *Genoa* heretofore ? We might still supply some Articles, such as Tin and Lead ; but there is more than a Probability that we should supply much less of the staple Commodity of our Country ; we should certainly vend less of our Draperies, and very likely of our *woollen* Manufactures in general.

You might remember, in your Time, how arduously the *Piedmontese* Ministry wrought, in order to wean their People from the use of foreign Manufactures ; and I can assure you, that they have refined upon their Schemes since your Days. As soon as they saw any Manufacture brought to any tolerable Perfection, the Importation was prohibited ; and even while it was growing, they were sure to clog the foreign Species with new Imposts.

Thus, in every Shape, has the Court of *Turin* endeavoured to beat out Foreigners from availing themselves of the Necessities of the *Piedmontese*, by establishing Manufactures of all kinds, and particularly *Woollen*. The *French* have, for many Years, sufficiently experienced the Effects of the growing Industry

of the *Piedmontese* Ministry, in the Prohibition of most of their Manufactures of Silk, Gold and Silver, and even of Wool.

It is true, that we have not hitherto experienced this Spirit of Oeconomy but in one Species of our woollen Goods, *viz.* our *Kersseys*; but I apprehend it is because the *Piedmontese* had not as yet been able to bring any other of those Articles to Perfection that interfere with ours. As soon as they had wrought up a sort of woollen Goods that could answer the use of *Kersey*, they loaded foreign *Kersey* with such heavy Duties as amounted to a Prohibition. And if we may judge, as we ought, of the future Conduct of the Court of *Turin* by the past and present, we may be sure that all our Manufactures will be too highly loaded, or wholly prohibited, gradually, as their own thrive and grow up.

The *Piedmontese* are, by Nature, parcimonious and industrious; wherefore when they are cherished and encouraged by their Prince, and can have *Wool*, and all other Ingredients used in the woollen Manufacture cheap and at the first Hand, by means of contiguous Ports, there is no doubt but they will extend
their

their Views, and endeavour, in their Turn, to supply others as they themselves had been supplied heretofore. And what Ports can be more convenient than those of *Vado* and *Savona*, which are the nearest of any to *Turin*, and precisely in the Center of his *Sardinian* Majesty's Dominions?

This Circumstance singly, more than all others, gave an Edge to the Desire of the House of *Savoy* to get Possession of these Ports. For as *Piedmont* can no otherwise be supplied from the Sea, but by the Ports of *Villa Franca*, *Oneglia*, *Final*, or *Savona*, and that the length and badness of the Road from the three first of those Places, renders the Communication dear and hazardous, 'tis not to be wondered that a Sea-port so contiguous as *Savona* is for supplying *Piedmont* from the Sea at a very small Expence of Land-carriage, should be the constant Object of the Attention of the Court of *Turin*. *Savona*, in the Possession of the King of *Sardinia*, might answer all his Purposes and Views to Trade: But in the Hands of the *Genoese* it could not answer even the natural Ends which its Situation might have furnished of supplying *Piedmont* on easy Terms. For, so jealous were the
Genoese

Genoese of the Trade of their Capital, that they loaded all Imports into the other Ports of their Dominions with excessive Duties. Such was their Policy, and such was the Reason that *Piedmont* could not be supply'd from *Savona*, tho' at its Threshold.

But should the King of *Sardinia* keep Possession of *Savona*, there is scarce a Doubt that it would become a *Free-port* ; by which Means all the Ingredients used in all kind of Manufactures, particularly the *Woollen*, might be furnish'd the *Piedmontese* clear of Duty, or any other Charge but that of Land-carriage, which, by the Vicinity of *Savona*, and the Goodness of the Road thence to *Piedmont*, would be very trifling. In such Case, what should prevent the Establishment of *Woollen* Manufactures all over *Piedmont*, where there are already some set up, cherish'd and thriving, notwithstanding all the Difficulties that stand in the Way. Nothing is difficult to an industrious People when properly encouraged by wise Governors ; but should *Savona* remain with his *Sardinian* Majesty, all the Disabilities which the *Piedmontese* laboured under hitherto will cease : And as there is no doubt that they will be highly encouraged
by

by their Prince, and his Ministry, there is all the Reason imaginable to believe that they would be soon enabled to supply, not only themselves, but their Neighbours, with all or most Articles of the *Woollen* Manufacture.

It might be some Time, probably, before these new Manufactures could arrive to the Perfection of ours. But what then? the Cheapness of them will gain them the Preference with Foreigners, whom you, Sir, know experimentally, to love dealing with those that sell cheapest. Besides, such heavy Duties will be laid on all foreign Manufactures all over the Extent of his *Sardinian* Majesty's Dominions, as are already on our *Kersey's*, as mentioned before, that there cannot possibly be any Vent for ours. Perhaps, likewise, there may be a total Prohibition; for there are no Encouragements to the native Manufacturers, which such wise Patriot Statesmen as those of the Court of *Turin* are not capable of.

The Court will have no Occasion to fear that we shall make any commercial Reprisals, in Case such Encouragements were given to the growing *Woollen* Manufactures of *Piedmont*. The only Article we receive from
Piedmont

Piedmont is *Raw Silk*, which is so absolutely necessary for the Employment of our own Silk Looms at home, most of which must stand still without this Species of Silk, that we must have it, tho' it should come ever so dear to us. Need I, Sir, tell you, who have so many Years dealt in the *Piedmontese* Raw Silk, that we can't do without it; and that therefore the Court of *Turin* may at any Time restrain our Trade without any Dread of our making Reprisals.

Nor are we less to dread the Decrease of our *Navigation* in the *Mediterranean*, should *Savona* and *Vado* remain in the House of *Savoy*. The Reason is evident. For what is it that gives us at present the Preference to other Nations in those Seas, but the Security of our Flag? As we are at Peace with all the Powers on the Coast of *Barbary*, and with the *Turk*, the *Italians* prefer our Bottoms to all others. But what shall prevent hereafter the Court of *Turin* from following the late Example of that of *Naples*, and cultivate a good Understanding with all those pyratrical Powers? And when this is done, as it certainly may, by Presents, and by Force, which his *Sardinian* Majesty will not want when he
draws

draws away the Trade of *Genoa* to *Savona*, may we not reasonably suppose that his Colours will have the Advantage of ours in those Seas, where his Ships can navigate cheaper than ours, and consequently proportion *Freights* to their Expence.

Let it not be urged, that the Want of Seamen on the *Italian* Coast, will always secure us the Carriage of those Seas, even should the *Sardinian* Colours be respected by all the Professors of *Mahometism*. It is well known, that Trade begets Seamen; and you, Sir, are thoroughly sensible that the Coast of *Genoa* alone is capable of furnishing Sailors enough to carry on all the Trade of the *Mediterranean*. And what was it but the Inactivity of the *Genoese* Government, and the little Figure that People made for some Ages past, till of late, that prevented their being upon good Terms with the practical Powers in those Parts? But you will agree with me, that if there had been such Safety in the *Genoese* Flag as in ours, it would have been preferred to ours. And you know, likewise, that that People wanted neither Seamen nor Shipping, nor the Means of supporting them; so that we are obliged more to the Indolence and

little Foresight of the *Genoese* than our superior maritime Force, that we have hitherto enjoyed the almost sole Benefit of being Carriers to the *Italians*.

But are we to expect the like Inactivity and Infagacity on the Part of the Court of *Turin*? Surely, Sir, our *Englishmen* are too well acquainted with the Wisdom and Policy of his *Sardinian* Majesty, and his Ministry, to doubt that all the Advantages accruing from the Possession of such Ports as *Savona* and *Vado*, won't be laid hold on and improved to the utmost.

Perhaps I may be told, that my Apprehensions are too refined and distant, should I suggest that the King of *Sardinia* might become hereafter a maritime Power, should he possess *Vado* and *Savona*. But, pray, Sir, what shall hinder his having a naval Force, and a considerable one too, if he draws the Trade of *Genoa* to *Savona*, establishes Manufactures throughout all his Dominions, and commands all the Sea-faring Men from *Provence* to *Genoa*?

But it may be objected, that tho' that Prince had Wealth, Manufactures, Trade and Seamen ;

men ; yet still he would want Shipping and Materials for Building. Idle Reasoning ! Money will always procure Ships ; the *Dutch* and the Northern Nations will always exchange Shipping and Timber for Bullion : Even we ourselves would supply his *Sardinian* Majesty, if properly apply'd to. But where is there a want of Timber on the Mountains contiguous to *Savona*, from whence the *Genoese* have always been supply'd ; and that People have had, at times, Fleets of Gallies and Men of War ?

The Truth is this, there is no want of Wood, fit for all sorts of Uses, in the Neighbourhood of *Savona* ; and it is no less true, that there are even now above 20,000 Sea-faring Men to be found on the extended Coast from *Nice* to *Genoa*. There is no doubting that the Number of Seamen on that Coast will encrease as the Trade of *Savona* flourishes. And 'tis as little to be doubted that the Trade of *Genoa* will be transfer'd to that new-rising Mart ; so that we may suppose, that in time all the Seamen of the Eastern Coast of *Genoa* will follow the Trade of their Capital, and be at the Service of him who can give them the best Wages. And should even most of the

Seamen of *Italy*, hereafter, be at the Service of the House of *Savoy*. I should not in the least wonder at it, any more than I should that his *Sardinian* Majesty and his Ministry will make the boldest Pushes, and strongest Efforts, at this time, for securing the Possession of *Ports*, by Treaty, which are likely to help his Successors to be more powerful at Sea, than all the *Italian* Powers put together.

His *Sardinian* Majesty is a Prince of uncommon Foresight and Penetration; his Notions are refined, and his Views very extensive. His Family have had their Eyes on *Savona*, of along time, as knowing that without it they could never hope to be able to give the Law in *Italy*, or be considered among the considerable Powers of *Europe*. We saw how like, what he really is, a wise Man, he laid hold of the first Opportunity which Fortune threw in his Way to possess himself of that *Port* whence all the future Opulence and Power of his House were to issue. But indeed it were to be wished that the Prince had been less intent at that critical Juncture, on the Completion of his particular Scheme. For it is generally believed here, that if the Troops and Artillery employed in the Siege of *Savona* had

had been added to the Force under Count *Brown* in *Provence*, the Common Cause had not suffered as it did, by the Miscarriage of that glorious Design of kindling a Flame in the Bowels of *France*.

But to return to that Object, of which an *Englishman* should never lose Sight, let it be considered how our Trade may be affected in more Branches than one, should the Schemes of the Court of *Turin* ripen to Maturity. Why may we not apprehend that, in time, the *Woollen* Manufactures of *Piedmont* may, by the Means of *Savona*, and by being tenderly nursed up by the Court, be brought to such Increase and Perfection, as to enable his *Sardinian* Majesty's Subjects to supply the lazy *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, who, like all other Foreigners, as has been said elsewhere, regard much more the Cheapness than Goodness of a Commodity. Thus should we, by elbowing up a present Ally, who has not always been such, perhaps lose not only the Benefit of the Consumption of our *Woollen* Manufactures in *Piedmont* and *Lombardy*, and in the rest of *Italy*, but likewise in *Spain* and *Portugal*.

As distant as these Considerations may seem to some, I can't but think they are worthy the Attention of a wise Nation, who, in Prudence, ought to guard against the remotest Danger, and the most distant Designs on their Power and Commerce. Jealousy, on these Occasions, far from being a Vice, becomes a Virtue. But in the present Case, who can say the Danger is remote? Is it not obvious, that, by uncommon Encouragements, a *Woollen* Manufacture is already brought to such Perfection in *Piedmont*, in spite of all natural Difficulties, as has ruin'd our *Kersey* Trade to all his *Sardinian* Majesty's Dominions? If then under so great, almost insuperable Disabilities, the *Piedmontese* have already beat us out of one Branch of the *Woollen* Trade; what may not they be able to do, by means of the Ports of *Savona* and *Vado*, Free-ports, where, as has been already observed, all the Trade and Wealth, Art and Industry of *Genoa* are like to center?

But suppose, for a Moment, we should wave our Apprehensions in regard to our *Woollen* Manufactures and our *Navigation*, which, in my humble Opinion, are far from
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being vague or chimerical, can we hope for the same solid commercial Advantages, under a regal despotic Government, which we had hitherto enjoy'd at *Genoa*? The Maxims of a Commonwealth are stated and permanent; whereas those of a Monarchy are far more various and fluctuating. We are sure that the Government of *Genoa* would never dream of innovating; but have we equal Reason to believe that the House of *Savoy* would not, even though we had the Security of a Treaty to lean to, that Cobweb which most Princes break through without blushing.

With Princes the Law of *Conveniency* is that which generally is best observed, and most practised; and this same *Conveniency* never fails of stretching and enlarging in proportion to their Power. The Word *Conveniency* has a very extensive Meaning in the Opinion of Courts and Ministers, as you may have observed on a late Occasion in *Russia*, when the Ministers have thought proper to be of a very different Opinion with our *English* Merchants settled in that Empire, in regard to their Trade to *Persia*: And yet it was thought by those Adventurers, and upon no slight Grounds neither, that this Trade
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had been thoroughly stated and settled. But Ministers will always rise in their Demands and extend their Views as their Prince extends his Power and Influence. Therefore whatever *Regulations* of Trade may be agreed to in the Infancy of the Commerce of *Savona*, we may be sure they will be alter'd, and not to our Advantage, whenever 'tis the *Conveniency*, that is, the *Interest* of the House of *Savoy*.

'Tis true, we have no reason to suspect the Candour of his present *Sardinian* Majesty. 'Tis probable he may observe his Commercial as he has his Political Treaties. But let our Suppositions of that wise Prince be as favourable as possible, we know he must die, but know not what may be the Views, Ambition, Humour, or Honour of his Successors. But one thing we are sure of, that it being the Business and Interest of all Princes to promote the Trade, Industry and Welfare of those whom Providence had put under their Care, his present *Sardinian* Majesty will carefully study and arduously pursue (*always to be understood by lawful Means*) the true Interest of his Subjects. We may be allowed, from his Conduct in Life hitherto, to make
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this Supposition in favour of that Prince; a Supposition, which though it does him Honour, ought however to put us upon our Guard.

But should it happen at any time hereafter; that we should have cause for Complaint; that our Commercial Compacts with any of the Princes of the House of *Savoy* should be infringed on their Side; suppose, I say, new Imposts, new Difficulties should be imposed upon us in our Trade to *Savona*, how shall we apply a Remedy, if Expostulation prove fruitless, as it usually does on these Occasions? The Manufactures of *Piedmont* and *Lombardy* and the Commerce of *Savona*, will have so enrich'd that Royal House, they will be grown so opulent and powerful in Men, Money and Shipping that I should not at all wonder if they should make little of our Threats and Menaces. May we not then be obliged to exert our Naval Power at a great Distance and vast Expence; and perhaps not with desired Success?

For let it be consider'd how vastly the Power of that ancient House would be increased, by the Wealth which must necessa-

fily flow in upon all their Dominions, should the Trade of *Genoa* be removed to *Savona*, as it naturally would. *Genoa* might enjoy the empty Honour of a free City or State; but all its Wealth and Subjects would infallibly take the Route of its *Rival*. Nor can I see, in such Case, what should obstruct the House of *Savoy* in their Views on *Genoa* itself, if they thought it would add either to their Power or Grandeur. Feeble must be the Efforts of the Inhabitants of that venerable *Capital*, who have lately acquired so great a Share of Glory, in Defence of their Liberties, should the Possession of *Savona* in the House of *Savoy* occasion, as it must, a total Destruction of their Trade.

The *Genoese* have rose and subsisted by Commerce; nor have they any other means of Subsistence, as their Country is both small and excessively barren. Therefore, take their Trade from them and they are undone. Thus, by a natural Transition, may all their Power, Trade, Wealth and People, Seamen and all center in the House of *Savoy*, who may not always be in Alliance with *England*, but who, on the contrary, may be in a Confederacy with her Enemies. His Majesty of *Sardinia*

dinia is now in our Alliance, for which we have paid no inconsiderable Sums since the War. But, Sir, you have seen, not long ago, that great Prince at the Head of *French* and *Spanish* Troops in opposition to the *Common Cause* and the *Interest* of our Country. I don't say this to derogate from the heroic Virtue of that gallant Prince, but to put us in mind of our *true Interest*, abstracted from momentary and fortuitous Considerations.

Suppose, and I hope 'tis not as yet criminal in an *Englishman* to make probable and reasonable Suppositions, the House of *Savoy* grown powerful by means of *Savona*; suppose a naval Power sprung up by their being Masters of all the Coast from *Antibes* to *Lucca*; suppose that this naval Force join'd to that of the different Branches of the House of *Bourbon*, what Figure should we be able to make in those Seas?

We are not sure that some future Prince of the House of *Savoy* won't be obliged to dance to the *Bourbon* Pipe, however well inclined he may be to the Cause of Liberty in general, and to *England* in particular. But if nothing of this Nature should happen, it

is well known that the Politics of Princes vary with their Interest ; therefore should it be the Study of Statesmen to guard against Danger be it never so distant.

But, as I said before, the Danger of a vast Increase of Power in the House of *Savoy* by means of *Savona*, should the Possession of it be secured by Treaty, does not at all seem to me to be either distant or foreign to the Considerations of our Statesmen at this present critical Juncture. 'Tis obvious that the Rise of *Savona* must necessarily occasion the Fall of *Genoa*. And however irritated some Courts may be of late against that antient Mart, sure I am, it is not the Interest of *England* to have it reduced to a low Ebb. Innovations in Trade are dangerous. The Benefits of our Commerce with the *Genoese* are stated and certain ; but when that Trade is gone elsewhere we are not sure to enjoy the like Advantages. On the contrary, there is a moral Certainty that we shall be considerable Loosers by the Transition.

Besides another Consideration should not a little weigh with *Englishmen* on this Occasion. We may now, as heretofore and always here-
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after, depend to be welcome and safe in all the Ports and Harbours in the *Genoese* Dominions. But are we sure that it would be always the same should that extended Coast be subject to the House of *Savoy*, who may hereafter have other Interests, Objects and Views, than his *Sardinian* Majesty has, or seems to have at present? And should any Chance deprive us of the Port of *Leghorn*, by its falling into the Hands of an Enemy, what must be the Condition of our Fleets or Trade, should we be shut out at the same time out of the *Genoese* Ports?

In my Opinion there is no Means so likely to promote our Trade to the *Mediterranean* as by preserving an Equality among the *Italian* Powers, and more especially by supporting the Republic of *Genoa* in its Rights and Possessions, which, thrown into the *Sardinian* Scale, would render it too ponderous and dangerous to our Commerce and Safety. It were to be wished, that all *Italy* had been parcell'd out into Republics, as their Form of Government is best adapted to Trade and Tranquility. But since that cannot be, we should at least contribute as far as we can to the Preservation of those few that remain.

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As much as it is our Business to take Care that the Republic of *Genoa* remain free and intire, it is no less that of his *Sardinian* Majesty to deck himself out with its Spoils. But ought his Majesty to expect, or ought we, if he did, to push our Complaisance for him so far as to wave the Advantage of our own Commerce to favour and promote the Trade of his Subjects? I don't think the *Piedmontese* themselves can suppose we can so far lose Sight of our Interest, commercial and political, as to support the Efforts of the Court of *Turin*, at the next general Treaty, for maintaining the Possession of *Savona* and *Final*. I shall therefore conclude that we shall not postpone the desirable Work of Peace out of any Inclination we may have to indulge a Court, I shall always be glad we served on every Occasion, and in every Instance, that did not clash mediately or immediately with the Trade and Welfare of *England*. And as I take the Possession of *Savona* by that Court, and the Depression of the Republic of *Genoa*, to be inconsistent with the true and genuine Interest of my Country, I hope our Statesmen will not in those Instances, render the Influence of the *British* Crown subservient to the Views
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of any Ally that might be more ambitious and tenacious than is agreeable to the *British* System of Policy.

As for your Part, Sir, I have taken the Liberty to lay my Reflections before you, as you are a Judge of the Subject, that if you should find them of that Weight and Significance, which I flatter myself they deserve, you will communicate them to our Superiors for their Information, while yet there is time for fending off the mortal Wound intended to our Trade. But however you may dislike the Stile, Manner and Order of these Observations, I am sure you are generous and candid enough to approve of the Intention which was herein solely directed by an inviolable Attachment to the Interest of *England*.

I am, &c.

FINIS;

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republican than is agreeable to the B. of England
of Policy.

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Yours